

McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

NATIONSBANK TOWER/1301 GERVAIS STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

MAILING ADDRESS:
POST OFFICE BOX 11390
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
TELEPHONE 803/799-9800
FACSIMILE 803/799-9804

CHARLESTON OFFICE
140 EAST BAY STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 1431
CHARLESTON, SC 29402
TELEPHONE 803/723-7831
FACSIMILE 803/722-3227

GEORGETOWN OFFICE
121 SCREVEN STREET
POST OFFICE DRAWER 418
GEORGETOWN, SC 29442
TELEPHONE 803/546-6102
FACSIMILE 803/546-0096

GREENVILLE OFFICE
105 EAST NORTH STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 447
GREENVILLE, SC 29602
TELEPHONE 864/271-4940
FACSIMILE 864/271-4015

HILTON HEAD ISLAND OFFICE
THE JADE BUILDING, SUITE 204
52 NEW ORLEANS ROAD
POST OFFICE DRAWER 7787
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC 29938
TELEPHONE 803/785-5169
FACSIMILE 803/842-3310

MYRTLE BEACH OFFICE
FOUNDERS CENTRE/SUITE 403
2411 OAK STREET
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577
TELEPHONE 803/444-1107
FACSIMILE 803/444-4729

SPARTANBURG OFFICE
SPARTAN CENTRE/SUITE 306
101 WEST ST. JOHN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 5137
SPARTANBURG, SC 29304
TELEPHONE 864/542-1300
FACSIMILE 864/542-0705

April 13, 1998

The Honorable Charles W. Ballentine
Executive Director
South Carolina Public Service Commission
111 Doctors Circle
Columbia, South Carolina 29203



**Re: Application of State Communications, Inc. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services
Docket No. 98-129-C**

Dear Mr. Ballentine:

Please find enclosed for filing on behalf of the South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("the Coalition") an original and ten (10) copies of an executed Stipulation between the Coalition and State Communications, Inc., in the above-referenced docket. By copy of this letter, I am serving all parties of record.

Please clock-in a copy and return with our courier.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Margaret M. Fox

MMF/sg
Enclosures

cc: Parties of record

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RECEIVED
4/14/98

ACCEPTED
Legal *km* 4/14/98

S. C. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
RECEIVED
APR 15 1998
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 98-129-C

S. C. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
RECEIVED
APR 13 1998

Re: Application of State Communications, Inc. for a)
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity)
to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange)
Telecommunications Services)
)
)
)

STIPULATION

The South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") (see attachment "A" for list of companies) and State Communications, Inc. ("State Communications") hereby enter into the following stipulations. As a consequence of these stipulations and conditions, the necessity for SCTC's intervention in this matter is avoided and SCTC withdraws its opposition to State Communications's Application. SCTC and State Communications stipulate and agree as follows:

1. SCTC does not oppose the granting of a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to State Communications, provided the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") makes the necessary findings to justify granting of such a certificate, and provided the conditions contained within this stipulation are met.

2. State Communications stipulates and agrees that any Certificate which may be granted will authorize State Communications to provide service only to customers located in non-rural local exchange company ("LEC") service areas of South Carolina, except as provided herein.

3. State Communications stipulates that it is not asking the Commission to make a finding at this time regarding whether competition is in the public interest for rural areas.

RETURN DATE: _____
SERVICE: *OK* *RR*

4. State Communications stipulates and agrees that it will not provide any local service, by its own facilities or otherwise, to any customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, unless and until State Communications provides such rural incumbent LEC and the Commission with written notice of its intent to do so at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the intended service. During such notice period, the rural incumbent LEC will have the opportunity to petition the Commission to exercise all rights afforded it under Federal and State law. Also, State Communications acknowledges that the Commission may suspend the intended date for service in rural LEC territory for ninety (90) days while the Commission conducts any proceeding incident to the Petition or upon the Commission's own Motion, provided that the Commission can further suspend the implementation date upon showing of good cause.

5. State Communications stipulates and agrees that if, after State Communications gives notice that it intends to serve a customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, the Commission receives a Petition from the rural incumbent LEC to exercise its rights under Federal or State law, or the Commission institutes a proceeding of its own, then State Communications will not provide service to any customer located within the service area in question without prior and further Commission approval.

6. State Communications acknowledges that any right which it may have or acquire to serve a rural telephone company service area in South Carolina is subject to the conditions contained herein, and to any future policies, procedures, and guidelines relevant to such proposed service which the Commission may implement, so long as such policies, procedures, and guidelines do not conflict with Federal or State law.

7. The parties stipulate and agree that all rights under Federal and State law are reserved to the rural incumbent LECs, and this Stipulation in no way suspends or adversely


affects such rights, including any exemptions, suspensions, or modifications to which they may be entitled.

8. State Communications agrees to abide by all State and Federal laws and to participate, to the extent it may be required to do so by the Commission, in the support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates.

9. State Communications hereby amends its application and its prefiled testimony in this docket to the extent necessary to conform with this Stipulation.

AGREED AND STIPULATED to this 8 day of April, 1998.

State Communications, Inc.



South Carolina Telephone Coalition:



M. John Bowen, Jr.

~~Margaret M. Fox~~

McNair Law Firm, P.A.

Post Office Box 11390

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

(803) 799-9800

Attorneys for the South Carolina
Telephone Coalition

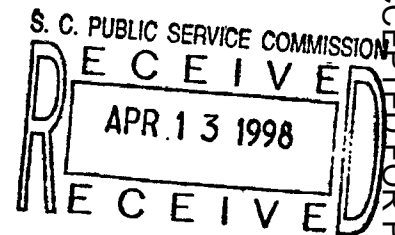
ATTACHMENT A

South Carolina Telephone Coalition Member Companies
for Purposes of Local Service Stipulation

ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc.
Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc.
Chesnee Telephone Company, Inc.
Chester Telephone Company
Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Ft. Mill Telephone Company
Hargray Telephone Company, Inc.
Heath Springs Telephone Company Inc.
Home Telephone Company, Inc.
Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Lancaster Telephone Company
Lockhart Telephone Company
McClellanville Telephone Company
Norway Telephone Company
Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Pond Branch Telephone Company
Ridgeway Telephone Company
Rock Hill Telephone Company
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
St. Stephen Telephone Company
West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Williston Telephone Company

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 98-129-C



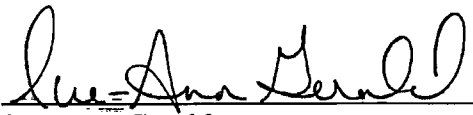
Re: Application of State Communications, Inc. for a)
Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to)
Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange)
Telecommunications Services)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sue-Ann Gerald, do hereby certify that this day I caused to have served the foregoing Stipulation to the below named party of record, by having same delivered as indicated, this 13th day of April, 1998, and addressed as follows:

U.S. MAIL - FIRST CLASS POSTAGE AFFIXED:

John J. Pringle, Esquire
Beach Law Firm, P.A.
Post Office Box 11547
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1547


Sue-Ann Gerald

Columbia, South Carolina